

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 39 and 43 as shown below.

1 to 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a photovoltaic power generation system comprising including a solar cell string comprised of a plurality of connected solar cell modules, a plurality of sensors provided around the solar cell string, and a switch for establishing a short circuit between output terminals of the solar cell string, based on output signals from the plurality of sensors, the method comprising:

a first step of measuring the output signals from the plurality of sensors;

a second step of normalizing values of the output signals;

a third step of comparing the normalized output signal values to a reference value S;

a ~~third~~ fourth step of calculating a comparison calculated value D, which is defined below, when at least one of a plurality of normalized output signal values Ax is larger than a the reference value S,

the comparison calculated value $D = (\text{a minimum of the plurality of normalized output signal values } Ax) / (\text{a maximum of the plurality of normalized output signal values } Ax)$; and

and a fourth fifth step of establishing the short circuit between the output terminals by the switch when the comparison calculated value D is smaller than a comparison reference value D0.

40. (Original) The method according to Claim 39, wherein an alarm is issued before the short circuit between the output terminals is established.

41. (Original) The method according to Claim 40, wherein when an output period of the alarm is longer than a time T_0 , the short circuit between the output terminals is established by the switch.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 39, wherein the plurality of sensors is comprised of solar cells.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a photovoltaic power generation system ~~comprising~~ including a plurality of solar cell strings connected in parallel, each solar cell string being comprised of a plurality of connected solar cell modules, and each solar cell string having a plurality of sensors provided around the solar cell string and a switch for establishing a short circuit between output terminals of the solar cell string, the method comprising:

- (1) carrying out for each of the plurality of solar cell strings,
 - a first step of measuring output signals from the plurality of sensors,
 - a second step of normalizing values of the output signals,
 - a third step of comparing the normalized output signal values to a reference value S_r and
 - a ~~third~~ fourth step of calculating a comparison calculated value D_y , which is defined below, when at least one of a plurality of normalized output signal values A_x is

larger than a the reference value S,

the comparison calculated value $D_y = (\text{a minimum of the plurality of normalized output signal values } A_x) / (\text{a maximum of the plurality of normalized output signal values } A_x)$; and

(2) carrying out a fourth fifth step when at least one of the comparison calculated values D_y of the plurality of solar cell strings is smaller than a comparison reference value D_0 ,

the fourth fifth step being a step of establishing a short circuit between output terminals of a solar cell string corresponding to the comparison calculated value D_y smaller than the comparison reference value D_0 , by the switch.

44. (Original) The method according to Claim 43, wherein before the short circuit is established between the output terminals of the solar cell string corresponding to the comparison calculated value D_y smaller than the comparison reference value D_0 , an alarm is issued for the solar cell string.

45. (Original) The method according to Claim 44, wherein when an output period of the alarm is longer than a time T_0 , the short circuit is established between the output terminals of the solar cell string corresponding to the comparison calculated value D_y smaller than the comparison reference value D_0 .

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 43, wherein the

plurality of sensors is comprised of solar cells.